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Some Things of General Interest
in the
Bristol Medical Library,



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SOME THINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST IN THE BRISTOL MEDICAL LIBRARY.¹

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Honorary Librarian.

[F from his engrossing occupation the expert librarian has any time to spare for the consideration of his own health, and if a generous committee gives him ample opportunity to recover from what is more or less an enforced imprisonment for a considerable portion of the year, there will be presented for his solution the annual problem of finding a place in which a sojourn will enable him upon his return to work to offer to the public his invaluable services, rendered more useful by a temporary forgetfulness of all things bibliographical.

It is not my business to affirm that under the circumstances I have named he will do best to come to Bristol, although much might be said on its behalf. It can be recommended for the magnificent scenery of its immediate neighbourhood; for the rare interest which attaches to so much that is left of an ancient city which has taken a large share in the national history; for the ever-varying incidents of a commercial seaport, and the facilities afforded for a variety of charming river and sea trips; for its ideal churches, which exist in great profusion; and for the attractions of the country round, which appeal with much force to the learned archæologist and to the well-read librarian.

The tastes of the modern librarian should lie especially

¹ A paper read at the Annual Meeting of The Library Association, Bristol, 26th September, 1900.

in the direction of a city full of association with William Canynge, the Cabots, Edward Colston, Bishop Trelawny, Bishop Butler, Edmund Burke, Hannah More, Chatterton, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Coleridge, Southey, and W. G. A further interest attaches to its production of many things that are known the wide world over, and amongst which stand out conspicuously its soap, cocoa, and tobacco factories, and its "milk" so much applauded by Pepys and by Macaulay.

If the librarian were to make this his holiday-resort, he would find in the Bristol Medical Library much that would add to an intelligent consideration of the attractions of the place, although of course much of our literature of the subject deals with its sanitary and health-giving advantages.

The changes which have taken place in the course of four or five generations in the way of utilising these advantages are revealed by a comparison of our modern methods with those recorded in old books relating to Bristol and Clifton, and as sociology is now a well-recognised and much-used branch of literature, it is appropriate to bring within the purview of a paper bearing the title of this one the conditions under which men and women a century and more ago sought at a health-resort the same kind of recuperation which many of us find so necessary in the hurry and pressure of to-day.

The things which refer in a general sense to the neighbourhood as a health-resort will therefore be the first division of my observations.

I shall pass by with the briefest notice the record of the virtues which have been attributed to the celebrated Hotwell water; but they must be mentioned, as this was the main attraction for visitors at the time of which I speak. Its reputation goes indeed much farther back, for it is mentioned about the middle of the fifteenth century by William Worcester who was a Bristol man. From 1628 onwards its virtues had been proclaimed by various authorities, medical and otherwise. Dr. Tobias Venner of Bath, whose work, published first in 1628, reached a third edition in 1650, said "it begins to grow in great request and use against the

Stone". Dr. Thomas Johnson, in *Mercurius Botanicus*, published in 1634, stated that it was of repute both inwardly and outwardly. In 1662, in Fuller's *Worthies*, it is declared that "St. Vincent's Well is sovereign for sores and sicknesses". Dr. Thomas Guidott of Bath, writing in 1676, considered that the Hotwell water "may be as effectual as Tunbridge water in any diseases that water is proper for". He published the results of an examination of the water which he had made with the help of Mr. Richard Millichape, an industrious and skilful apothecary in Bristol. The Hotwells received its first royal visitor in 1667, when Queen Catherine, the wife of Charles II., after dinner in Small Street, drove to see the Avon Gorge and drank some of the water.

As the spring issued forth some twenty-six feet below high-water mark, the advantages of its health-giving properties were only available with difficulty. In 1691 a cistern, rising above the level of the highest tide, was constructed to contain the water, but as this came out with much force—at the rate of from forty to sixty gallons in a minute—the arrangement was soon found to be unsatisfactory; and in 1695 a company made an agreement with the Merchant Venturers, who were lords of the manor, for the erection of a pump-room and other facilities for visitors. From this time its popularity grew rapidly, and was promoted by much further medical testimony. A Bristol doctor named Underhill, practising in College Green, who Latinised his surname into Subtermontanus, published in 1703 a collection of cases which had received benefit from the use of the water, and the records of which had been kept at the Well-house. In 1706 Dr. Benjamin Allen instituted some experiments with the qualities of the water, and in *The Natural History of the Mineral-Waters of Great Britain*, published in 1711, he declared it to be "worth trying in Diabetes and where Warmth is useful and Steel not proper, to make a Constitution firm as in most Phthises of the Lungs and wilting decays; and perhaps in common Hypochondriacal cases". In 1712 the water received a favourable notice from Sir Robert Atkyns, the historian of Gloucestershire, whose father was Recorder

of Bristol from 1662 to 1682. In a communication presented to the Royal Society in 1723, Dr. Edward Strother, in a description which must have appealed to the man in the street, summed it up as a water that was "Æqueo-salino-alcalino-cretaceo-aluminoso-cupreo-vitriolick". Among the visitors at this date were the Duchess of Marlborough, the Duchess of Kent, Lady Diana Spencer, Lady A. Grey, Lord Romney and Sir D. Bulkeley. That the water was in general request is shown by an advertisement which Mr. Latimer, whose *Annals of Bristol* are the storehouse of accurate information on this and on other matters, quotes from the *London Weekly Journal* of 30th April of that year: "Bristol Hot Well water. Fresh from the wells, will be sold and delivered to any part of the town at six shillings per dozen, with the bottles, from Mr. Richard Bristow's, goldsmith, at the Three Bells near Bride Lane, Fleet Street. . . . These bottles are of the largest size, and by the extraordinary favour of the winds arrived but the last week in eight days from Bristol, the common passage being a month or six weeks." Dramatic performances for the amusement of the visitors were given in the Long Room, a building now used for a National School, and one of the representations of "The Beggars' Opera," in 1728, was "attended by 200 persons of the first rank". The actors had come from Bath, where the nobility had presented them with dresses, and it was announced that Mr. Gay would be present at the following representation. The place was, however, not free from calumniators. Richard Savage, who was buried in St. Peter's Church, Bristol, in August, 1743, had not hesitated to revile the city which had befriended him, and addressed it thus:—

What smiles thy sons must in their foes excite!
Thy sons, to whom all discord is delight;
Thy sons, though crafty, deaf to wisdom's call,
Despising all men and despised by all;
Sons, while thy cliffs a ditch-like river laves,
Rude as thy rocks, and muddy as thy waves,
Of thoughts as narrow as of words immense,
As full of turbulence as void of sense.

And Alexander Pope, who came here for the benefit of his health in 1739, has not much to say in its favour, for he declares "there is no living at the Wells without more conveniences in the winter". But there must have been gay doings in the season of 1743. The *Oracle* of 11th June of that year states, that on the previous Wednesday the Earl of Jersey gave a breakfast at the Long Room to 150 persons of high life, and that the Hon. Mr. Ponsonby offered a similar entertainment two days later. Public breakfasts, followed by a dance, were given once or twice weekly, and there were also evening balls, and in imitation of the familiar place of amusement in London, "a piece of ground near the Long Room was opened for evening dances, under the name of the New Vauxhall Gardens, the place being gaily illuminated". The well-known *Enquiry* of Dr. George Randolph of Bristol appeared in 1750, in which the value of the water is considered under the heading of the several complaints in which it had been found beneficial. Dr. Randolph, believing that he owed his life in a great measure to this water, offered his book "as a *tabula votiva* given out in Acknowledgment of the Escape" he had had, and he says in words that may be commended to many an intending author of to-day: "I know the World too well, to commence Author out of interest; nor am I Fool enough to have any Vanity this way".

The office of Poet Laureate has been held by many people whose names are well-nigh forgotten. One of these extraordinary creatures, William Whitehead, who received the appointment upon the death of Colley Cibber in 1757, after it had been refused by Gray, had six years before published an allegorical "Hymn to the Nymph of Bristol Spring," belauding the water in the most extravagant manner. It covers eighteen pages in the 1774 edition of his *Plays and Poems*. The author considered the neighbourhood to combine all the beauties of the several English health-resorts which he names.¹ Three years after the date of this poem

¹ Addressing Avonia, he says, that the poets who seek inspiration in foreign beauty are to be blamed, "Thine is all beauty; every site is thine". The poem was favourably reviewed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, January, 1751.

there is much documentary evidence of the popularity of the Hotwells, which is quoted in detail by Mr. Latimer. Keepers of fashionable shops at London and Bath opened branch establishments here. It is gratifying to our local pride to learn that in a literary direction Bristol set an example to Bath where a shop was opened for ladies to read the newspapers "as at the Ladies' Tea Room at the Hotwells, at half a crown the season". As an instance of a practice which seems to have added to the popularity of the Hotwells, Mr. Latimer quotes from Owen's *Observations on the Earths, Stones and Minerals for some miles about Bristol*, 1754, the statement that "no price is paid for the water; all the expense is that every one when he goes away makes a present to the master, and a trifle to be divided amongst the servants".¹ In the same year some interesting light is thrown on social customs, for we are told that "Elizabeth Trinder, from the Lebeck's Head Tavern, Bath, has opened a house at the Hotwells for the reception of company as a tavern or eating-house. An ordinary everyday at three o'clock, at half a crown a head . . . the house being the first of the kind attempted here." The house which was called "The Lebeck" still bears the name, but during recent years it has been used by

¹Of the works which deal with the Hotwells, Owen's book is one of the most interesting I have seen. Amongst other things he says:—

"The people in general are obliging more than in almost any other place I know. . . . Every fine Sunday indeed the place is all day long like a fair. Vast numbers . . . coming from Bristol, and all round . . . to drink the water; but these go in a back way, and do not interrupt the better sort of company." He says that the principal amusements for gentlemen are the river and channel excursions and rides on the Somersetshire side of the river, but of these ladies seldom partake. Their diversions are pretty much confined to the Pump Room and the Long Room. But some take great delight in riding upon Durdham Down, and the best lady attending the Hotwells will not refuse riding behind a man, for such is the custom of the country, and numbers of what they call double horses are kept for that purpose. Owen says that at Bristol it was seldom necessary to drink the water under medical advice, as it was at Bath. Speaking plainly about doctors, he adds: "It were well if those gentlemen's fees were all the ill that sometimes attends their officious service". For medical men the fashionable life at the Hotwells does not seem to have been a very good thing: "Excepting for now and then a prescription for a bottle of drops to an old lady, or some salts to a fine gentleman who wants to soften his complexion, the doctor seldom picks up many guineas".

the Government as a Recruiting Office. A year later the Hotwell water was affected by the Lisbon earthquake. It became discoloured to such an extent that people thought the end of the world was upon them, and "flew to the churches, where prayers were offered to avert the apparent approach of their destruction".

In 1758 Dr. Sutherland of Bath published a work on the Bristol water. Dissatisfied with all previous analyses, about some of which he speaks very plainly, he subjected it to a searching independent examination with the assistance of his friend, Dr. Bayliss, "the Master of a neat Experimental Apparatus as well as a Cabinet of the *Materia Medica*, which might claim a place in any university, and which the owner not only possesses but understands". Dr. Sutherland came to the conclusion "that as Mineral Waters in general, so Bristol Waters in particular are of such efficacy, for the preservation of health, as well as the cure of Diseases, as in the highest Degree, to exceed all Shop Remedies, and that they approach the nearest in Nature to what has vainly been reached after, *An Universal Medicine*". In reference to the general attraction of the place, Dr. Sutherland states that "provisions of all sorts are to be had in plenty during the Summer, which is the Season allotted by custom for drinking these waters. Garden stuff is early, and excellent. There are lodgings near the Wells convenient for such as are real invalids; there are Magnificent Lodgings in the beautiful village of Clifton, on the top of the hill, for such as have carriages, and whose lungs can bear a keener air. There are balls twice a week, and *card* playing every night." The impartiality of the Bath physician is shown by the plea he urges for improvements in order to make the advantages of the place more accessible to visitors.

There was still great demand for the water from a distance. It was kept on sale, wholesale and retail, by Fairly Jones at the Golden Wheatsheaf in Tavistock Street, Covent Garden; a reproduction of the label, which stated that the stock was "constantly fresh and certified by the proprietors of the Well," is given by Dr. D. W. Linden of London in a treatise which reached a third edition in 1759. Dr. Linden, who

very kindly kept a watchful eye over his patients who came to the Hotwells, by spending a portion of the summer with them here, remonstrated in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in August, 1761, against the evil effects of a lead-smelting house which five years before had been established on the other side of the river nearly opposite the Pump Room of what Linden calls "the second medicinal spring in the kingdom". Dr. Linden was considered so great an authority on hydro-pathy that some of his friends celebrated his attainments in verse which his modesty did not preclude him from printing in his book. Amongst the fulsome things which have been said or written about individuals, this extract from a piece written, I am sorry to say, by a librarian will unanimously be accorded a bad eminence:—

And when no more these *Earthly Streams* afford
That Health to him, to others they restor'd;
When Galen's Sons shall his sad Loss deplore;
His Skill, in Consultations, reap no more:
When the *Castalian Nymphs*, in mournful Tale,
The *Universal Friend's* Departure wail;
Seraphs, to deck them, and emblaze his Fame,
Shall o'er the Skies bespangle *Linden's* Name;
In glittering Characters, it there shall shine,
A *Constellation* in the *Watry Sign*:
While, bath'd in Bliss, he wafts at full Content,
In *Heavenly Streams*, above the Firmament.

This was written by William Oldys, who was Lord Oxford's librarian, and affords a salutary warning for all who belong to his profession not to do likewise. Dr. Linden appears with a very thin disguise in Dr. Smollett's *Humphrey Clinker*, in which the social life of the Hotwells is viewed from very different standpoints; a good deal of the scenes of Miss Burney's *Evelina* is also laid at the Hotwells.

About the end of 1764, or the beginning of 1765, a strange event agitated the authorities of Bristol. The Bishop being informed by the Mayor that it was contemplated to open "a Mass house at the Hot Wells under the protection of the Duke of Norfolk," invoked the aid of the Government to prevent such an outrage which "in such a public place was so contemptuous a defiance of all law and authority that

no government would or could endure it". The Romanist priest being informed at a meeting of civic officials that the action was illegal begged the Bishop's pardon and abandoned the project. After the account of the incident in Bishop Newton's *Life* it is very complacently added that 'only a bastard kind of popery, Methodism, has troubled Bristol since that time'. This is a vivid illustration of life in the good old days.

In 1766 the Duke of York came here to get the benefit of the waters. His visit was commemorated by attaching his name to a well-known inn at the Hotwells. Mr. Latimer says that the author of *The Beauties of England*, which was published in 1767, noticed when in Bristol that the water was not only drunk on the spot at the Pump Room but every morning cried in the streets like milk, and the *St. James's Chronicle* of 1st July of that year said: "We hear from the Hot Wells that there is a good deal of very good company already; seldom less than 200 at the public breakfasts, with cotillons, and fuller balls than were last year at the height of the season, which is generally about the third week in July". The place was resorted to not only in the usual season; persons of independent fortune had on account of its many attractions either purchased or taken houses in order to live there winter and summer. "The inhabitants met twice a week last winter to drink tea and play at cards, which encreased its sociability."

As the Vauxhall Garden, started about the middle of the century, had for some unnamed reason lost its attractiveness and ceased to exist, a similar place of entertainment with the same name was opened in 1776 near the spot with which the name is still associated. But it seems to have been mainly the resort of Bristolians, who imitated the manners of fashionable visitors at the Hotwells. Being situated in a place not easy of approach, it lived only for about twelve months.

In 1785 the exportation of the water took place with the authority of the Merchant Venturers, and every bottle sent out bore the impression of a seal which had been engraved for the purpose.

There was indeed at that time, and for many years after, much to occupy and divert the gay company by which the place was thronged, and if there had been then a Library Association holding its meeting in Bristol, ample care would certainly have been taken to introduce its members to the attractions offered. Its reputation in 1789 may be gathered from a description given by Dr. Andrew Carrick, who occupied a high place as a Bristol physician. He says: "The Hotwells during summer was one of the best frequented and most crowded watering-places in the kingdom. Scores of the first nobility were to be found there every season, and such a crowd of invalids of all ranks resorted to the waters that it was often difficult for them to provide themselves with any sort of lodgings. About that period a considerable number of lodging letters had in the course of a few years realised very handsome fortunes, without any complaint of extortionate exactions. Three extensive taverns were constantly full, and two spacious ballrooms were profitably kept open. There was a well-attended ball, a public breakfast, and a promenade every week, and often twice a week. The pump-room was all day long the resort of invalids, who left with the keeper of the well many hundreds a year in voluntary donations, and from twelve to two o'clock was generally so crowded that there was often some difficulty in getting up to drink the water. The walk adjoining was in the meantime filled with fashionable company, to whom the sublime scenery of the cliffs was enlivened by the sounds of a band of music. The downs and all the avenues to the Hotwells were filled with strings of carriages and with parties on horseback and on foot." The reputation of the Hotwell water was at this time so great as to become itself a danger, for as a last resource consumptive patients in a dying state were often sent here. Echoing a warning note first sounded by Owen in 1754, in reference to this practice which was so likely to affect injuriously the credit of the place, Matthews's 1794 *Guide* made an appeal "to the gentlemen of the faculty not to detain their consumptive patients under their treatment till their cases became desperate". Fatalities of this kind were so great in one set of houses that it received the unenviable title of "Death

Row". In our library is a copy of *Shiercliff's Bristol and Hotwell Guide*, published in 1789, the year referred to by Dr. Carrick. In it, the first book of its kind, we learn that "no person need be at a loss for amusement during their residence at the Hotwells". Shiercliff describes the river excursions, and in connection with them it is said "the effect of the music on the water, especially when re-echoed from the rocks, is enchanting, and inspires the most agreeable sensations". The Rev. George Heath, the writer of *Matthews's Guide*, who was greatly indebted to Shiercliff for descriptions which he obviously paraphrased, adds that "many ladies and gentlemen cross the river at Rownham Ferry and walk in the sweet and wholesome village of Ashton, to eat strawberries or raspberries with cream; a delicious and salutary repast". After the public breakfasts there were cotillons and country dances, and for these and the balls, which were held every Tuesday, there was a Master of Ceremonies. Mr. William Pennington, who had been appointed to the office in 1785, issued the following regulations, which throw considerable light on the social condition of the time:—

- (1) That a certain row of seats be set apart at the upper end of the room for ladies of precedence and foreigners of fashion.
- (2) That every lady who has a right to precedence deliver her card to the Master of the Ceremonies on her entering the room.
- (3) That no gentlemen appear with a sword or with spurs in these rooms, or on any ball night in boots.
- (4) That after a lady has called her dance, her place in the next is at the bottom; and for the future it is to be understood that no lady of rank can avail herself of it, after the country dances are begun.
- (5) That on ball nights, when minuets are danced, ladies who intend dancing these will sit in a front row for the convenience of being taken out and returning to their places.
- (6) That on all occasions ladies are admitted to these rooms in hats, not excepting the balls given to the Master of the Ceremonies.
- (7) That the subscription balls will begin as soon as possible after seven o'clock, and conclude at eleven, on account of the health of the company.
- (8) It is earnestly requested, that when a lady has gone down the dance, she will be so polite as not to retire till it is concluded.

In 1793 Dr. John Nott published a book *Of the Hotwell Waters, near Bristol*, a second edition of which was called

for in 1797. He, like many of his predecessors, goes very fully into the uses of the waters in disease, and gives full directions how the invalid's day is to be employed. He is very explicit in his praise of the loveliness of the neighbourhood, and speaks of Ashton as a village which "three miles in length is one continued bed of strawberries". He bears testimony to the sufficiency of its amusements, but he laments "that the female invalids at the Hotwells, who are for the most part at that period of life when public entertainments have their peculiar relish, err in no one instance so much as in the indulgence of dancing; an exercise most salutary to lungs that are sound, but as injurious to those that are unsound". Also in 1797 Dr. Carrick issued *A Dissertation on the Bristol Hotwell Water*, in which he recorded his own analysis of it, and took occasion to emphasise the warning against the practice of sending patients in the last stage of consumption from long distances to the Hotwells. He knew of one consumptive patient from Scotland who expired just as the carriage which brought him reached the door of his lodgings; of another who died the morning after his arrival; of five or six who died within the week; and of several more who did not live to reach the end of their journey. Notwithstanding the great advantages offered to visitors, Dr. Carrick thought there should be further improvements. He suggested (1) a public garden near the Mall; (2) a commodious set of baths; (3) more houses under the hill of a proper size for single families; (4) a new road from Clifton to the Hotwells; (5) a bridge over the Avon, as he says the colossal bridge which was to have connected St. Vincent's Rocks we must not expect ever to see erected.

The literary requirements of the fashionable throng that frequented the Hotwells were not great, but they were not altogether overlooked. The 5s. subscription which enabled the visitor to walk in the rooms and gardens also included the privilege of reading the newspapers which were supplied. Beyond this there was a circulating library kept by Mrs. Ann Yearsley, who, born about 1756, was in early life a milkwoman, but who left that useful but humble occupation and became a minor poet. Some of her verse attracted the

favourable notice of Hannah More, by whose aid she published a volume of poems, and with the proceeds of this she started the library. Other books, including a play and a novel, followed later, and possibly these are in the care of some of the librarians present at this meeting. A portrait which is in the possession of the Bristol Museum and Library shows Mrs. Ann Yearsley as the possessor of considerable personal attractions. She died in 1806.

If it is true that Jack Cade considered that the man who had erected a grammar school had most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm, that any one who caused printing to be used or a paper mill to be built had committed a grave offence, and that those were most worthy to live who could not read, he had a like-minded successor in one who would have disclaimed any relationship to him. For the same spirit breathes in Sir Anthony Absolute, who declared that "a circulating library is as an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge". If there is any truth in this dictum, the dwellers in Clifton about this time must have been in a parlous state, for there were two institutions of the kind, in one of which at least there was the opportunity for its clients to make their purchases from "an extensive assortment of foreign and English perfumery, jewellery, hardwares, toys and stationery".

Besides these there was the City Library in King Street, which Shiercliff describes as a handsome freestone building, with a valuable collection of books which then reached in number about two thousand. In library matters Bristol has a strange record. In the fifteenth century, if not earlier, the local Fraternity of Kalendars, an Order which had done much excellent literary work here and elsewhere, threw its library open to the public. The access was a little too open, as the Guild found to its cost, for several of its MSS. were stolen. It is a matter for profound regret that a collection upon which so much care had been bestowed was in 1466 destroyed by fire. The City Library owes its origin to private munificence. In 1613 Master Robert Redwood, a citizen of Bristol, gave a building in what became King Street for the purpose of a library for public use. To look after the books, many of which had been given by the

Archbishop of York, the City Council in January, 1616, appointed a librarian, at the annual salary of 40s., with a residence. This continued till 1691, when the Corporation decided not to appoint a successor to the existing librarian; they stored the books away in a part of the establishment, and let the rest of it as a dwelling. By 1725 the building had become dilapidated, and the books had been removed to the Council House. In 1740 a new building, which still stands was erected, and three years later a librarian was again appointed. But the citizens made scarcely any use of the library. In fact, library matters were at a very low ebb for many years, and there was no improvement till 1772, when the Bristol Library Society was formed on subscription lines. This society obtained for its use the city building, and in a short time the free use of any books by the citizens was strongly resented by the subscribers, and they were practically used only by the members of the society which held possession of the building. In 1854, the Council having been made to realise, largely through the labours of Mr. Tovey, the departure from the original intention, ordered the society to give up possession of the building, which in 1856 began a new existence as a real free public library. The society, then known as the Bristol Library, moved in 1855 to premises near the top of Park Street, and in 1856 received the collection of books which had been formed by the doctors under the title of the Bristol Medical Library on the condition that its efficiency should be constantly maintained. In 1867 the society allied itself to the Bristol Philosophical and Literary Institution which had been founded in 1817, and in 1871, in the building known as the Museum and Library, the work of the two societies was carried on conjointly. Many difficulties beset the new institution; the stipulation about the medical books was not kept, and in 1893 Sir Charles Wathen, then Mayor of Bristol, undertook to pay off the debts of the institution on condition that the shareholders presented the building and its contents to the city. Thus the whirligig of time has brought about its revenges, and the property of the unscrupulous and overreaching Library Society, which had ousted the citizens from their rights,

became the property of the city, which thus finds itself possessed of a valuable collection of books that had been selected by the society with much judgment. The present Medical Library in Bristol, begun in 1891, now has the custody of the books which belonged to the former Medical Library, and which have passed through so many vicissitudes of ownership. From the example of the shareholders of the Museum and Library, of Sir Charles Wathen, and more recently of Sir W. H. Wills and others, modern Bristol has no reason to fear that local patriotism and munificence will not be forthcoming to supplement in the future the miserably small rate from which the literary and scientific wants of the people have at present to be supplied.

It will be seen, then, that the King Street Library, which was at the service of the visitors to the Hotwells a little more than a century ago, was a subscription one, admission to which was at first an entrance fee of 21s. and an annual contribution of 21s. From time to time the terms were varied. At the beginning of this century they were "84s. at entrance, besides a guinea in hand and a guinea annually". In 1816 they were "a deposit of £8 8s., and an annual subscription of 31s. 6d.," and in 1825, with the subscription at the same amount, members had to pay "ten guineas at entrance, besides a guinea in hand".

When the popularity of the Hotwells was great, the librarian was the Rev. Thomas Johnes, who was also chaplain to the infirmary. It was then necessary that the librarian should be a clergyman, but after his time this ceased to be a condition of the appointment, and the Council have no doubt been careful to see that his successors possess the virtues of both the offices which were united in their eighteenth-century forerunner. The daily attendance of the librarian was from 11 till 2 and from 6 till 9, except on Saturdays when it was from 11 till 3 only. I can find no record of the holidays which were granted to him, but it is not likely that he was so well off in this respect as the fortunate holders of appointments in the Custom House and other Government offices who had, in addition to the great ecclesiastical seasons, three days in Easter and Whitsun

weeks, and twenty-nine other days, being those Holy Days of the Church which have a special Collect, Epistle and Gospel, and various days connected with great national events.¹ It is too much to hope that these holidays will ever be granted to the public librarian, but it would not be unreasonable if he were to be absolved from work on at least St. George's Day, and the days which commemorate the birth and accession of the reigning monarch.

The Episcopal Library of the period was on the south side of the Cathedral, in a building which had been repaired and partly rebuilt by Bishop Butler in 1744. Nearly the whole of this and its contents were destroyed by fire in the Reform Riots of 1831.

Chatterton had been dead nineteen years when Shiercliff's *Guide* was first issued in 1789. In its fourth edition, published in 1809, it is said that "the extraordinary abilities, life, and praise of Chatterton rose an emulation for poetic fame in

¹ List of holidays observed at the Custom House in addition to Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Holy Thursday and three days in Easter and Whitsun weeks.

Jan. 1. The Circumcision.	Aug. 12. Prince of Wales' Birthday.
" 6. The Epiphany.	" 24. St. Bartholomew.
" 18.	Sept. 21. St. Matthew.
" 25. St. Paul.	" 22. Coronation Day.
" 30. Charles I.	" 29. St. Michael.
Feb. 2. The Purification.	Oct. 18. St. Luke.
" 24. St. Matthias.	" 25. Accession of George III.
Mar. 25. The Annunciation.	" 26. Proclamation of George III.
April 23. St. George.	" 28. St. Simon and St. Jude.
" 25. St. Mark.	Nov. 1. All Saints.
May 1. St. Philip and St. James.	" 4. Landing of William III.
" 19.	" 5. Guy Fawkes.
" 29. Charles II.	" 30. St. Andrew.
June 4. George III.'s Birthday.	Dec. 21. St. Thomas.
" 11. St. Barnabas.	" 25. Christmas Day.
" 24. St. John Baptist.	" 26. St. Stephen.
June 29. St. Peter. July 25. St. James.	" 27. St. John the Evangelist.
Aug. 1. Lammas Day.	" 28. Innocents.

Some other officials had in addition:—

Feb. 14. St. Valentine.	Sept. 14. Holy Cross.
Mar. 1. St. David.	" 18. Landing of George I.
July 15. St. Swithin.	Nov. 2. All Souls.
Sept. 2. London burnt.	" 9. Lord Mayor's Day.

the breasts of several youths of Bristol, particularly Southey, Coleridge, Cottle, Lovell, etc." Southey was born in Wine Street, Bristol, in 1774, four years after Chatterton's death. In 1803, in conjunction with Joseph Cottle (introduced by Canning in the *Anti-Jacobin*, and whose brother Amos is immortalised in *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*), Southey edited Chatterton's poems, and wrote a preface explaining the conditions under which the work appeared. The intimate connection of Southey and Coleridge, both literary and panti-socratic, are too well known to need more than mention, but it is appropriate to call attention to the fact that whilst they were lodging together in College Street they were frequent visitors to the Bristol Library. From the researches of two members of this Association, Mr. James Baker (*Chambers's Journal*, 1st February, 1890), and Mr. Norris Mathews (*The Library*, vol. v., 1893), we know what books they took out as well as those which were borrowed by other eminent men, among whom may be mentioned Humphry Davy, who was then an assistant in the Pneumatic Institution which Dr. Beddoes had opened in Dowry Square at the Hotwells in 1798 for the treatment of diseases by inhalation.¹ It was at this institution that Davy discovered the properties of nitrous oxide, or laughing gas.

But the glories of the Hotwells were now about to vanish. Soon after 1790, when new arrangements were made between the Merchants' Society and the tenant, necessitating on the latter's part a considerable charge for drinking the water, the mere pleasure-seekers departed to other places, and the Hotwells was the resort of invalids only, and although the praises of the site from the invalid's point of view were sounded in 1800 by Dr. William Saunders in his book on mineral waters, and endorsed by Dr. William Nisbet in 1804 in *A Medical Guide for the Invalid*, it was all of no avail. In spite of better facilities of approach, and the building of an improved Pump Room and the provision of better baths, the place became practically deserted, and in 1816, according to

¹ The application of the treatment was made the subject of one of Gillray's caricatures.

Dr. Carrick, "many houses and even whole rows are unoccupied". River improvements necessitated the demolition of the new Pump Room in 1867. The decay of the Hotwells as a fashionable resort seems to date from the Merchants' Society's new lease in 1790, and the exorbitant charges which were then the rule for all visitors' requirements; but its end no doubt was hastened, as Mr. Latimer points out, by the quieter condition of European politics which enabled persons to visit the continental spas in safety.

A vigorous and well-meant effort to restore the glories connected with the Hotwell spring has within the last few years been made by the erection of the Clifton Spa, an institution replete with modern luxury, and thoroughly equipped with an elaborate system of baths.

Probably most of us manifest some impatience at the travelling delays of our journeys. From the *Guide* of 1789 we learn that Bristol was well provided with means of transit. London of course received the greatest amount of attention. On five days of the week, six coaches, and on the other two days, four coaches, started to make the journey in from sixteen hours to a day and a half. Those who have come to Bristol by way of the Severn Tunnel may be interested to know that Shiercliff's *Guide* gives very explicit directions for travellers when to pass the Severn:—

As the crossing depends on the winds, it is necessary to observe, that they distinguish but two Winds for passing, *viz.*: Winds below, and Winds above

Winds below, are when it blows up the river Southerly or Westerly. With these you may pass during the ebb or going out of the tide, which is seven hours.

Winds above, are when it blows down the river Northerly or Easterly. With these there is five hours passing on the flood or coming in of the tide. When the wind is S.E. or N.W. it is directly across the river, therefore, you must be at the passage where you intend to cross an hour before high water, as they can only go over then, and that but once, there being no passage during the flood or ebb.

A table is added by which travellers may know at what hours to pass every day in the year.

I close this part of my subject by quoting from the 1809 edition of Shiercliff's *Guide* a passage which I hope our

visitors will be able to endorse out of their own experience as applicable to our present condition: "The state of society in Bristol, which is doubtless a criterion of its literature, is as polished and liberal as at any city in these kingdoms. Its inhabitants are as enlightened, its police as regular, its character as rational."

From the matters I have brought to your notice, it is an easy transition to others which, though purely medical, have a general and historical interest. Probably few, if any, public libraries are without some literature referring to William Harvey, whose labours in connection with the circulation of the blood are so well known, and to Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination, whom we look upon as a local man, and whose inestimable services to the health of the community are recognised by all except those who are unable to appreciate the value of overwhelming evidence.

I show two interesting volumes of Harvey's works. The first is a facsimile in autotype reproduction of the MSS. of his *Prelectiones Anatomicae Universalis*. The second is his book *Anatomical Exercitations concerning the Generation of Living Creatures*. In this state having the portrait it is very rare. In one of Quaritch's recent catalogues a copy without the portrait is priced at £7 10s., and this note is added: "Extremely rare. Unmentioned by Lowndes. Mr. Hazlitt remarks, 'It is said that only 150 copies were printed, and of these 115 were destroyed'. A perfect copy fetched £40 10s. at Sotheby's in 1892."

A few years ago at one of our Bristol Exhibitions there was a Jenner collection, an account of which appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, 13th January, 1894. We have nothing to rival that, but we have got together several portraits of him as represented by various artists, which with other things connected with his work are framed together in the picture I now show accompanied by a plan which explains them. The two caricatures included need a word or two. One of them is a Dutch reproduction of one of Gillray's caricatures which represents Jenner performing the operation on patients who have been previously prepared by medicine administered by another doctor. The

vaccinated patients develop on various parts of their bodies distinct bovine characteristics. On the top of the picture is a cow being worshipped by the votaries of the new method. The other is a French caricature entitled "Sept contre un, ou le Comité de la Vaccine," and represents an animated scene at one of the meetings of the committee appointed to report to the Government on the merits of the new discovery. In this caricature two smaller pictures are introduced, one representing Jenner discovering vaccination, and the other shows a child being vaccinated.

I now close with a reference to one or two points of bibliographical interest. Our library possesses no Caxton or book printed by any of his contemporaries or even a De Worde or a Pynson, but we have a book printed in the year IX.

In 1834 James Atkinson, a surgeon of York, issued a Medical Bibliography, including only A and B, which he did not intend to carry further. He says: "Bibliography is a dry occupation—a *caput mortuum*—it is a borrowed production, which brings very little grist to the mill; and so difficult and tedious is the object of laying before our eyes all the real or reported copies or editions of the works enumerated, that almost every line of our reports may be suspected of falsehood. How are we to collect, how to produce, how to examine, the originals? Many books are so scarce, so sequestered in private hands, or in the mansions of the great, that even the keen eyes of luciferous booksellers cannot find them. And, if they cannot, who the deuce can?" To render bibliography less dry, he added to his lists of books and periodical literature, which are very commendable, observations on the authors. The style of these may be gathered from two instances. Of Dr. Beddoes, of whom I have already spoken, he says: "As an author, he appears to have been always in a hurry to reach the mart of novelty and invention, lest others should arrive there before him; so that it became, through life, a perpetual tilt and tournament for fame." He considers that Benjamin Brodie, who was more than a distinguished surgeon, has been fortunate in

regard to his surgical pursuits, and adds that "generally speaking, the surgeon who exerts himself, however justly, as a philosopher and a naturalist, is often superseded in the surgical department by surgeons his inferiors. The idle world seldom gives a man credit for excellence in two attainments. Ex. gr. I plays a bit at top o' the fiddle; so neighbours say I can do nothing else." About bibliography generally Atkinson says: "No man's industry is mis-spent, if he merely clear the obstruction from any path; and the very attempt to show what is right, frequently exposes that which is wrong; so that the immediate blunders of one person rectify those of another; and he ever must deserve well of society who attempts improvement."

Remembering the difficulties and dangers of subject-classification, and our own mistakes, we shall be lenient to the errors of others, and "forbear to judge; for we are sinners all"; but it is difficult to forgive the British Museum for placing Ziemssen's *Cyclopædia of Medicine* in a list of bibliographical works, or for putting Holden's *Landmarks*, a book which deals with surface anatomy, under the heading of "History of Medicine," or worst of all, for classing under "Obstetrics," a work on "Child Labour," especially as it adds immediately after the entry that it was issued by the American Economic Association.

There is no better instance of careful bibliography than the *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army*. This work is still in progress. Seventeen volumes were issued in the first series, and the second series is in the letter E. As an example of its value I show the two volumes in the two series which refer to Cholera. In the first of these the titles cover 152 pages, and in the second 102 pages, a fairly good start for the man who wants to get up the subject. It is only right to mention the *Index Medicus*, a monthly classified record of current medical literature, a work which grew out of the *Index-Catalogue*. After twenty-one years of existence, during which it passed through many difficulties, it came through insufficient support to an end. It is a book simply indispensable to the librarian and the student. The most expert cataloguer must admire its

thoroughness and its splendid accuracy. Its place has been excellently filled by *Bibliographia Medica*, working on almost exactly similar lines, but incorporating the Dewey system. It is issued by the *Institut de Bibliographie* of Paris, and fortunate is the branch of literature that has such an invaluable help.

A puzzling bit of bibliography comes before us in reference to the anatomical work of Bidloo, who in 1685 issued from Amsterdam his *Anatomia Humani Corporis*. In 1698 the same plates with references in red ink and nine additional plates were printed at Oxford, and on the engraved title the portion indicating Bidloo's authorship is covered by a slip declaring it to be "The Anatomy of Humane Bodies, by Will^m. Cowper, Surgeon," and this is so neatly pasted over as to escape recognition till very closely examined. Cowper, in an address to the reader, says: "These Figures were Drawn after the Life, by the Masterly Painter G. de Lairess, and Engrav'd by no less a Hand, and Represent the Parts of Humane Bodies far beyond any Exstant; and were some time since Publish'd by Dr. Bidloo, now Professor of Anatomy in the University of Leyden," and the theory is that Cowper bought the plates and considered that the additions he made were sufficient to justify him in calling the work his own. But this hardly seems to be ideal bibliographical morality, and the view which Bidloo took of the transaction may be gathered from a fifty-four page pamphlet which he issued from Leyden in 1700 entitled *Gulielmus Cowper criminis literarii citatus, coram tribunali Nob. Amp. Soc. Brit.-Reg.*, and Cowper appears to have made a tardy recognition of Bidloo in his *Εὐχαριστία, in qua dotes plurimæ et singulares Godefridi Bidloo, perita anatomica* issued in 1701. But the mystery becomes more involved when we look at a book containing the same plates which was issued at Leyden in 1737 under the supervision of C. B. Albinus, who described the work as the second edition of Cowper's book. This seems extraordinary when we remember that Albinus was Professor of Medicine, Anatomy, Surgery and Practice in the University of Utrecht, and could hardly have been ignorant of the incidents connected with Bidloo and Cowper.

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